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tem of inflexion will, I trust, be sufficient to excite the curiosity of students of elocution. It is surely deserving of an impartial trial, and should not be rejected without examination. For my own part, I am convinced that there is no *mode*, that there can be no mode of teaching boys to read, equal to that which Mr. Walker has pointed out. The subject is now reduced to rule and method; so that a teacher is enabled to communicate instruction to his pupils in the most distinct and specific manner. The rules are deduced from the reason of the human voice, and the perception of harmony which is familiar to every good ear; and must therefore lead those who suffer themselves to be directed by them, directly to the delightful path of truth and nature. In short, I consider Mr. Walker's discoveries worthy of forming a new era in the history of one of the most elegant and ornamental arts that can occupy the attention of mankind.

A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON the important subject of Catholic Emancipation, I perceive that you in general, hold liberal sentiments. It is surely a measure, which not only justice, but the maxims of the soundest policy require to be adopted. It is however a subject perplexed with difficulties arising from the passions of the two opposite parties. Be it your plan to go straight forward without suffering yourselves to be drawn aside to either hand. Like the great Statesman, whose death at this crisis these countries have so much cause to deplore, do you in your more humble station, establish your character on the same stable basis, as the enlightened Fox.

"A Patriot's even course he steer'd,
'Midst faction's wildest roar unmov'd."

I have read with much attention your critique on Parnell's History of the Penal Laws, and for the most part, I agree with the writer: but on two points I felt considerable disappointment and dissatisfaction. I do not approve of the attempt by a side wind to palliate the infraction of the treaty of Limerick, and still less of the sophistry employed to justify the enactment of the penal laws against the Catholics, although the continuance of them is so justly reprobated by the reviewer. If they are now unjust they were so always. We may admit some palliation from the temper of the times, and the mutual irritation of all parties, but these considerations will not amount to a justification of the enactment of an iniquitous code, unjust in the first rise, and accumulating injustice in its progress, nor sanction the cruelty of "finding a bill of indictment against a whole people". If the Catholics of that day acted wrong, and were then the supporters of the arbitrary house of Stuart, the penal laws were not the proper correctives of their error: they were founded in injustice, and consequently do not admit of a defence in this period of greater liberality.

Having thus expressed my opinions on a subject treated on in a manner apparently hostile to the Catholics, I request the liberty of making some remarks on another article, in which the writer appears to have flattered the prejudices of the Catholic body. I allude to the political retrospect for last month, under the head Ireland. The writer after objecting to the union, more on the score of the bubble of national honour, than a just appreciation of its advantages and disadvantages, commercial and political, praises the Catholics for continuing independent of the crown of Britain in the appointment of their Bishops, while he commends them for their dependence on the See of Rome. To such inconsistencies do writers fall, when they view things only through the magnifying glass of party prejudices. In the eye of sober reason, there exists no sufficient cause why the Irish Catholics should not choose their own Bishops, independent of any extraneous influence, either of the king or the pope. The present manner of appointing Catholic Bishops, under the influence of the pope, partakes no more of a free election than the *Congé d'elire* of the English bishops. In both there is the appearance, but not the reality of an election. How liable is human nature to fall into extremes! The

transition is easy, from pointing out an error on one hand, to recommend the adoption of a contrary error on the other. CENSOR.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

DESIROUS that those who merit honours should receive them, through the medium of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, I wish to make public the following discovery.

Yours,

JOHN TEMPLETON.

The attraction of cohesion subsisting between gold and iron, has always been an impediment to the artist engaged in working gold. An ingenious artist of Belfast, Mr. Alexander Dunlap, has discovered a few months ago, that, by using cream, or even milk deprived of its butter in place of oil, gold may be drilled, or burnished with the same facility as brass or any other metal. No sooner had he made the discovery, than with an enlightened liberality he hastened to inform his friends, and it is now successfully practised by many workmen, both in Belfast and Dublin.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

The following Account of a new Volcano, in one of the Azores, has lately been given to the public, by the American Consul at St. Antonio.

Fayal (Azores) June 25th, 1808.

"A PHENOMENON has occurred here, not unusual in former ages, but of which there has been no example of late years; it was well calculated to inspire terror, and has been attended with the destruction of lives and property. On Sunday, the first of May, at one, P.M. walking in the balcony of my house, at St. Antonio, I heard noises like the report of heavy cannon at a distance, and concluded there was some sea-engagement in the vicinity of the island. But soon after, casting my eyes towards the island of St. George, ten leagues distant, I perceived a dense column of smoke, rising to an immense height; it was soon judged that a Volcano had burst out about the centre of that island, and this was rendered certain when night came on, the fire exhibiting an awful appearance.

Being desirous of viewing this wonderful exertion of nature, I embarked on the second of May, accompanied by the British consul, and ten other gentlemen, for St. George; we ran over in five hours, and arrived at Vellas, the principal town, at eleven A.M. We found the poor inhabitants perfectly panic-struck, and wholly given up to religious ceremonies and devotion. We learned that the fire of the first of May had broken out in a ditch, in the midst of fertile pastures, three leagues S. E. of Vellas, and had immediately formed a crater in size about twenty four acres. In two days it had thrown out cinders, or small pumice stones, that a strong N.E. wind had propelled southernly; and which, independent of the mass accumulated round the crater, had covered the earth from one foot to four feet in depth, half a league in width, and three leagues in length; then passing the channel five leagues, had done some injury to the east point of Pico.

The fire of this large crater had nearly subsided, but in the evening preceding our arrival, another small crater had opened, one league north of the large one, and only two leagues from Vellas. After taking some refreshment, we visited the second crater, the sulphureous smoke of which driven southernly, rendered it impracticable to attempt approaching the large one. When we came within a mile of the crater, we found the earth rent in every direction, and as we approached nearer, some of the chasms were six feet wide; by leaping over some of these chasms, and making windings to avoid the large ones, we at length arrived within two hundred yards of the spot; and saw it in the middle of a pasture, distinctly at intervals, when the thick smoke which swept the earth, lighted up a little. The mouth of it was only about fifty yards in circumference, the fire seemed struggling for vent; the force with which a pale blue flame issued forth, resembling a powerful steam-engine, multiplied an hundred fold; the noise was deafening. The earth where we stood had a tremulous motion, the whole island seemed convulsed; horrid